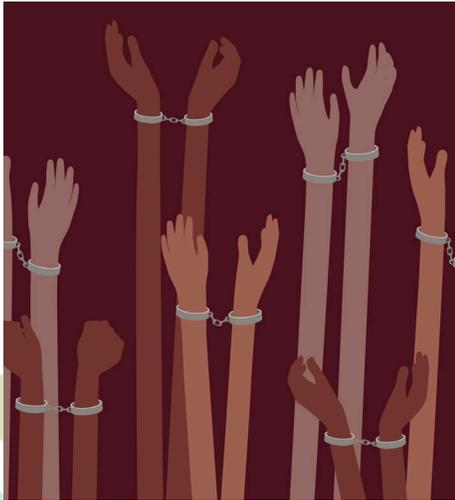


# Human Trafficking

## BAPC FAST FACTS

Beech Acres Parenting Center  
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In 2017 the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children responded to over 10,000 reports of possible child sex trafficking. Human trafficking is a heinous crime equivalent to modern day slavery. Traffickers target vulnerable persons and use intimidation to gain control over them. Once in control, they coerce these individuals using force or social engineering into the labor or sex trade.

Human trafficking is typically divided into two types, labor trafficking, and sex trafficking. Both involve the exploitation of individuals into something against their will. Labor trafficking affects diverse groups of individuals around the world and involves those individuals being coerced into working against their will on farms, in factories, at small and large businesses, and even in domestic settings.

Sex trafficking is a global threat where an individual is forced into commercial sexual activities against their will. Victims of sex trafficking are

forced into providing escort services, working in illegitimate massage businesses, working in brothels and strip clubs and commonly involved in street solicitation and prostitution.

**The Polaris Project, an organization dedicated to ending human trafficking globally, estimates there are over 40 million victims of modern slavery around the world.** While the likelihood of your child becoming a victim is remote, it is important to be aware of the issue and look for signs of human trafficking in your community. The National Human Trafficking Hotline lists a number of “red flags” to look for in your community. These include bizarre work and living conditions, poor mental health or abnormal behavior, and poor physical health.

Tell your child to always be aware of their surroundings, be wary of communicating with strangers, and always have their cell phones with them (and charged!) with family and emergency contacts programmed in. Helping your child develop and maintain a good self-esteem and modeling healthy relationships can reduce the risk that he or she will be targeted by traffickers. Help them be aware of the motives of others by building their **social intelligence**.

It is also important to be aware of your child's online interactions. Develop their strength of **judgment** by teaching them to be safe and responsible when setting up online accounts for games or social media. Make sure they are not providing too much personal information and explain to them why it is important to be prudent about the amount of personal information they share online.

Perpetrators of human trafficking will often use bribery including gift cards, clothing, bags or purses to lure victims. Develop your child's strength of social intelligence so that they are better equipped to identify potentially dangerous situations and avoid social engineering that could lead to entrapment.

At Beech Acres Parenting Center we believe the best way to help children is through their parents. You have the strengths you need to raise capable, caring, contributing children and we're here to help.

### Additional Resources:

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org>

<http://www.missingkids.com/home>

<https://polarisproject.org>

At Beech Acres Parenting Center, we uncover the natural gifts of children by unleashing the power of parents and caregivers. As a contemporary parenting center, BAPC serves over 20,000 people annually through a wide range of services including foster care, adoption, behavioral health support, parent coaching and much more. All of our programs are founded in our Natural Strength Parenting™ framework which enables parents to unlock their own potential by building on their unique strengths. For more information, visit [www.beechacres.org](http://www.beechacres.org).

NATURAL STRENGTH PARENTING™

  
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